

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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MEMORANDUM FOR: J.D. Esterline

SUBJECT: Possible Effect in Guatemala if Government were induced to  
Eliminate some top ranking Communists from the Administration.

1. Various evidences of Guatemalan approaches to reduce the existing tensions leads to a hope that he might attempt to work out a deal whereby the administration eliminates some top ranking communist from it ranks. From a KUGO'N point of view any step in this direction would be very valuable. For example if Arbenz could be induced to eliminate two or three top ranking Communists as a first step, the stage would be set to press DUG'WN efforts to prove to Guatemalan Communists that Arbenz has turned on them; that he is only using them and intends to throw them out. This would probably be a part of the Arbenz line itself. This wedge driving together with the anti-Communist moves that Arbenze may takes may very well stimulate the Communists to anti-Government activity of some sort and expose them as non-patriotic. It would very soon lead to a separation of the sheep from the goats in Guatemalan and Communists would find it difficult or impossible to hide under a pro-government patriotic cloak. I believe that even a first faltering anti-Communist step by Arbenz--if it can possible be arranged or provoked or fixed in some deal; would have a tremendously disorganizing effect on the whole Arbenz regime, and would lead to a situation in a fairly short time wherein it would be possible to make more deals for further elimination of Communists, prove to the army the vacillation of the regime and its insecurity, and eventually result in the elimination of the Arbenz regime or the Communists in the Regime, which would be the results desired by the US.
2. This presupposes that PBSuccess will continue to generate pressures and tneseness in the situation so that Arbenz will conceivably wish to reduce the pressures and tensions existing.

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